

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-9, 18, and 20 are allowed.

Disposition of claims

Claims 1-21 were pending in this application. By way of this reply, claims 1, 2, 10-17, 21, and 22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, only allowed claims 3-9, 18, and 20 remain pending. Claim 3 is independent; the remaining claims depend from claim 3.

Acknowledgement of Priority

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge Applicant's claim for priority to June 4, 2002, based on corresponding Japanese Application 2002-162646.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 10, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over JP 2000-299532 ("Ozaki") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,095,051 ("Nagahama"). As explained above, claims 1, 2, 10, and 22 have been canceled by way of this reply without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591, Reference 08228/061001.

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Respectfully submitted,

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